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might well have called it a thankless task to enlighten any Englishman on any subject relating to America; but not to be ungracious, the author has contented himself with a concise statement of facts, and irresistible deductions from them, in a style so calm and dispassionate that the most wrongheaded John Bull cannot fail to be impressed by it. The reader will find in these clear recitals of early American cases involving our neutrality, taken from a chapter of our national history not so familiar as it should be, even to ourselves, a new testimony to that undeviating good faith towards other nations that has always been peculiarly the characteristic of American diplomacy. This pamphlet, therefore, will be found of great interest, and the impartial professional tone in which it is written, cannot fail to do honor not only to the writer, but to the country.

J. T. M.

THE NATIONAL BANK ACT. An Act to provide a National Currency, &c., approved June 3d, 1864. New York: Published at the office of the Bankers' Magazine. 8vo., pp. 142. Paper; \$1.00.

The publisher of the excellent and popular Bankers' Magazine makes a very acceptable publication of this important act, which is now exciting such universal attention, and concerning which the profession must be so frequently called upon to advise. The act is given in full, and also in a separate analysis, and a complete index, which will greatly facilitate the handling of the book. To these there is added also the Gold Act of June, 1864, in full.

J. T. M.

A MANUAL FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC AND BANKERS. By BERNARD ROELKER, A. M., 4th ed. New York: J. Smith Homans. 8vo., pp. 368; \$3.

The functions of a notary public, even in countries of common law jurisdiction, at times approach so nearly a judicial character, that it is of the highest importance that he should be properly versed in his powers and duties. To this end we doubt not this manual will materially conduce, as it embodies a great deal of valuable and practical information. Moreover, as a digest of several important branches of mercantile law, prepared by a very competent gentleman of the New York bar, and as the only good American work on the subject, the bar will find it convenient and of practical service; though being mainly intended for notaries themselves, it belongs rather to that class of semi-professional works that are always more or less unsatisfactory to a legal reader, and in the end are usually productive of far more litigation than they prevent.

J. T. M.